

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the telephone conversation on June 21, 2005, between the Examiner and Applicant's representative. In that telephone conversation, the Examiner confirmed that the Office Action of June 16, 2005, was a non-final Office Action, so that paragraph 8 of the Office Action should have been omitted.

Claims 19-22 and 24-28 are presented for consideration. Claims 19 and 25 are independent. Claims 23, 29 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 19 and 25 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 19, 21-25 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,696,972 (Kerszykowski) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,403 (Ozaki). Claims 20 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kerszykowski patent in view of the Ozaki patent as applied to claims 19 and 25 above, and further in view of published U.S. patent application number 2003/0025732 to Prichard. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims

19-30. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that claims 19-22 and 24-28, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 19 recites an information processing apparatus in an exposure system. The information processing apparatus includes a generation unit, a providing unit and a reception unit. The generation unit generates a parameter file described in a markup language based on a parameter used in the exposure system, the parameter file including information for displaying an image concerning at least one of a shot layout and a sample shot for an exposure process to be performed by the exposure system, and a program for editing the image. The providing unit provides the parameter file generated by the generation unit to another information processing apparatus arranged outside of the exposure system. The reception unit receives the parameter file from the other information processing apparatus, the parameter file being edited by the other information processing apparatus using the markup language. The other information processing apparatus displays the image using the markup language.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 25 recites an information processing method used in an exposure system. The method includes the step of generating a parameter file described in a markup language based on a parameter used in the exposure system, the parameter file including information for displaying an image concerning at least one of a shot layout and a sample shot for an exposure process to be performed by the exposure system, and a program for editing the image. The method further includes the steps of

providing the parameter file generated in the exposure system to an information processing apparatus arranged outside of the exposure system, and displaying the image by the information processing apparatus using the markup language. The method further includes the steps of receiving the parameter file from another information processing apparatus, the parameter file being edited by the other information processing apparatus using the markup language, and transmitting a parameter in the received parameter file to the exposure system.

By such an arrangement, in the present invention, a parameter file can be provided to another information processing apparatus arranged outside of, for example, an exposure system. The parameter file can include information for displaying an image concerning at least one of a shot layout and a sample shot, for example, for an exposure process to be performed, and a program for editing the image. An operator can then edit the image using the other information processing apparatus arranged outside of the exposure system. This is convenient, because the user does not have to go to the exposure system in order to edit the parameter file.

Thus, a key advantage provided by the present invention is the ability to receive the edited parameter file from the other information processing apparatus. By way of example, Figure 16 of the subject application shows an information processing apparatus arranged in a console unit 330, which provides a parameter file to image display means 602 of the information processing apparatus, which receives the edited parameter file from the information processing apparatuses.

Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention as recited in the independent claims.

The Kerszykowski patent relates to an automated machine program generator and a method for optimizing the manufacturer of articles. The generator includes a data repository editor, a table parameter editor and an optimizer editor. The data repository editor collects data from various sources. The data is transformed and placed in a table. If necessary, the data in the table is modified by the table parameter editor. The modified data can be optimized by the optimizer editor and transferred to a piece of equipment for manufacturing the article.

Applicant submits, however, that the Kerszykowski patent does not teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 19 and 25, including features of both a providing unit and a receiving unit. In other words, in the Kerszykowski patent, there is no feedback between editor 11, 13, 14, and the manufacturing equipment 15.

Applicant further submits that the remaining art cited does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Kerszykowski patent.

The Ozaki patent relates to a two-dimensional analysis using a wafer map. An image of the wafer map is classified and displayed on a screen for each item such as a manufacturing step, a device and inspection. A trend guard is also attached in addition to the image of the wafer map.

The Prichard publication relates to a system and a method for providing customized graphical user interfaces and/or screen layouts in computer systems. A general layout of a user interface is defined in an HTML-based template. The details of the user interface are generated by software which retrieves a selected XML display/editor template text file,

populates the XML display/editor text with current system data, converts the XML data to HTML, and then populates the HTML template to produce an HTML-based text for display. The user interface is then generated from the HTML-based display text by the web browser.

Applicant submits that the Ozaki patent and the Prichard publication, as with the Kerszykowski patent, does not teach or suggest the salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 19 and 25, which have been discussed above. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Ozaki patent and the Prichard publication add nothing to the teachings of the Kerszykowski that would render obvious, Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 19 and 25.

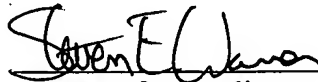
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 19 and 25, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 20-22, 24 and 26-28 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claims 19 and 25. Further, individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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